

Montana and the Sky

MDT- Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 50 No. 11

November 1999

The 21st Annual Mountain Search Pilot Clinic

The Montana Aeronautics Division is responsible for air search and rescue operations pertaining to civil aircraft within the state of Montana. This system relies heavily on trained Montana volunteer pilots and aircraft. Thirty pilots from Montana went through an intense three-day mountain flying program, which also included emergency locator transmitter (ELT) training, and survival training, along with evening search and flying programs.

The 1999 Mountain Flying instructors were Fred Hasskamp, Sparky Imeson, Jeanne MacPherson, Stan Read, Wayne Turner and Bill Werner. The airstrips used were Schafer, Spotted Bear, Meadow Creek and Kalispell City.

Emergency Locator Transmitter instructors were: Peter Graf, Will Mavis and High Wilkins.

Chuck Thout & Ben Roth of the Emergency Institute of Washington conducted survival training in a field session along the Flathead River.

Thank you to all of you that devote your time to the Montana Aeronautics Search and Rescue system. 1999 Mountain Search Pilot Participants: Amy Woody, Jim Folger,

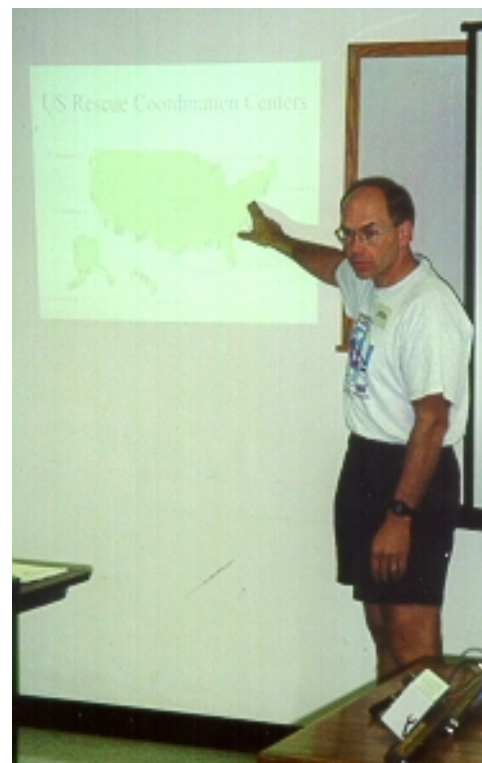
Tad Kirschman, Trevor McNeff, Daniel Lilja, Shawn Zimmerman, John Boyer, Deni Whitsitt, Clint Collins, Dan Brandborg, Leonard Heydon, Paul La Beck, Harold Matovich, Gary Stensatter, Ken Shimmon, Reg Goodwin, Tom Weitz, Randolph Robinson, Joe Minnehan, Felix Moran, David Calhoun, James Summers, Linda Marshall, Ted Luark, John Moran, Tony Marshall, Jerry Cain, Bill Woodford, John Waller and Ron Warnick.

Next year's dates for Mountain Search Pilot Clinic is September 15, 16 and 17, 2000.

For further information on mountain flying and this year's mountain search pilot clinic check out Sparky Imeson's Internet site at <http://www.mountainflying.com>.



Above, Instructor Stan Reed completes the logbook entry for Bill Woodford. At right, Pete Graf explains the United States Rescue Coordination System. At left, Reg Goodwin, Randy Robinson and Tom Weitz are doing their pilot search flights out of Spotted Bear.



Administrator's Column

CONDOLENCES: It was with great sorrow to learn that Dr. Jim Lovitt folded his wings on October 14th. In addition to being a noted spinal surgeon, Dr. Lovitt had a burning passion for flying. Although Jim had an interest in aviation as a young boy, he didn't start flying until 1993 and soon became an avid aviator. He was very proud of his personally designed modifications accomplished on his Cessna 182. Jim fought a courageous but losing battle to cancer. The last time I visited with Jim was when he and a friend landed his airplane at Glasgow. We visited about his situation and I felt that he was quite upbeat and told me that flying to him was good therapy. On behalf of the Aeronautics Board and Division and the Montana aviation community I would like to extend our condolences to Jim's wife Ruthmary and their families. ➔

AIRPORT ATTITUDE'S TO BE ANALYZED:

The National Air Transportation Association (NATA) is soliciting firms to perform a study of public opinions about general aviation airports. The NATA wants to identify key issues, concerns and attitudes about airports through a sampling of the U.S. population. The NATA objective is to assist members who have FBO's in communities where the airport faces organized opposition, or where the airport is likely to become an issue in the future. NATA President Jim Coyne stated "We want to equip NATA members with a 'tool kit' of ideas that they can use to promote a positive message about the airport in a proactive way long before it becomes a serious problem." Coyne explained that "the data will also be used to support a broader effort to encourage policy makers and the aviation industry to undertake a national program to promote the importance of access to air transportation. With 655 of 3,300 airports that serve the turbine aircraft community having organized groups attempting to impose restrictions or close the airport, we must respond to this threat. This study will form the basis for future action." NATA hopes to have the project completed by February 2000. ➔

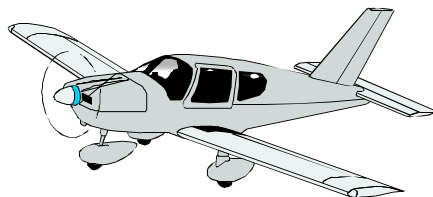
MORE FAA EMPLOYEES WANT UNION REPRESENTATION:

FAA employees, many at the Washington, D.C. headquarters, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, Regulation and Certification, Airports, Systems Safety and Civil Rights, attorney's in the office of Chief Council, Aircraft Certification Service Manufacturing branch, Civil Aviation Security, regional logistics division, regional accounting and bud-

get division, financial services, and air traffic services unit have either previously or are now petitioning different unions for representation. The FAA is disputing part of an earlier petition claiming that nearly one-third of the employees covered in the petition are not eligible to join a union. The Federal Labor Relations Authority held a hearing last month but the findings have not yet been released. BOY-O-BOY! ➔

AIR 21 SHOT DOWN BY SENATE:

The popular AIR 21 bill to fund the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and the FAA got road blocked by Conference Committee Senators who refused to compromise. The aviation industry strongly supported the AIR 21 bill which passed the U.S. House of Representatives by an overwhelming vote and the unpopular Senate bill introduced by Senator McCain (AZ) were assigned to a joint conference committee to work out differences. The House AIR 21 bill would have taken the Aviation Trust Fund out of the Unified Budget however the Conference Committee Senators refused to accept any compromise. Representative Bud Shuster (PA), Chairman of the Transportation Committee and sponsor of AIR 21 stated "The House tried to find common ground. We were willing to accept a TEA-21 (highway bill) type firewall in lieu of off-budget, but the Senate would not agree... worshipping at the alter of fiscal short-sightedness will carry a high price when our aviation system becomes hopelessly congested." Instead the Senators want to band-aid the program again with another six-month reauthorization bill for the FAA but Chairman Shuster has reiterated his opposition to further short-term extensions. This means that AIP and FAA reauthorization may not be debated until after the 106th Congress begins in late January. This setback is very discouraging. Our Senators keep touting how our aviation system is not keeping up with the demand but refuse to act when a good bill is placed on their doorstep. It seems like it's a "turf war", just because the House came up with a better program the Senate refuses to accept it or even compromise. During this Congressional recess it may be well to ask our Senators to explain the Senate's inaction on this direly needed legislation. Why do they want to keep the "TRUST OUT OF THE TRUST FUND?" ➔



Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation
Marc Racicot, Governor
Marv Dye, Director

Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division
Telephone - 406-444-2506
Fax - 406-444-2519
P.O. Box 5178
Helena, MT 59604

<http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/aeronautics/>

Michael D. Ferguson
Administrator

Aeronautics Board

Ron Mercer, Chairman
Byron Bayers, Member
Fred Booth, Member
Craig Denney, Member
JoAnn Eisenzimmer, Member
Douglas Freeman, Member
Will Metz, Member
Bob Palmersheim, Member
John Rabenberg, Member

Montana and the Sky is published
monthly in the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.
Third Class postage paid at Helena,
Montana 59604

Subscription: \$5 per year
Editor: Debbie Alke
Editorial Assistance:
Patty Kautz

Montana Pilot's Association Fall Fly-In

Strong gusty winds in excess of 50 knots and low VFR weather conditions, put a damper on the turn out of pilot folk and airplanes at the annual Montana Pilots Association and Experimental Aircraft Association Fall Fly-In. This year's event was held at the Great Falls Airport.

The Great Falls MPA, EAA and GTF airport people put out a huge effort toward the success of the fly-in...if only the weather

would have cooperated. Young eagles were ground schooled and flown, until the wind exceeded a safe operations speed. The fall MPA meeting was conducted. Interesting aviation presentations and demonstrations, static displays, tours of the airport; flight service station, tower and fire station and a MPA dinner and dance were part of the three-day event.

Great Falls, you put on a great Fall Air Fair !!



Above, Jeanne MacPherson with two Young Eagles at the Great Falls MPA Air Fair. At right, Joe Barber, Canine Enforcement Officer with the US Customs Service gives a Customs Canine Demonstration with his dog, "Dakota". Below, Russ Verbael of Dutton pins wings "Future Pilot" on a new EAA Young Eagle.



Calendar

January 28 – 30, 2000 – Winter Survival Clinic, Helena.

February 4 – 5, 2000 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena.

March 2 - 4, 2000 – Montana Aviation Conference, Billings.

WINTER SURVIVAL IS BACK.... Due to popular demand!

Mark your new 2000 calendars for the dates of January 28 and 29. The winter survival course is sponsored by Montana Aeronautics and will be lead by Skip Stoffel and Chuck Thout of the Emergency Response Institute of Washington.

Friday evening on January 28th at 1830 MST, at the Helena College of Technology, participants will gather for a survival ground school. On Saturday, January 29th at 0800 MST an equipment check will be made and then the participants will head into the field for a training session in building shelters. Not only will participants build shelters, but they will also have the opportunity to live and sleep in the shelters for one night.

For further information please contact Jeanne MacPherson, Montana Aeronautics, (406) 444-2506 or e-mail jemacpherson@state.mt.us.

EXTENSION OF PART 145 NPRM COMMENT PERIOD

The National Air Transportation Association (NATA) expressed satisfaction with the FAA's extension of the comment period for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Part 145, the rules governing certification of aircraft repair stations. The FAA has extended the deadline for comments from October 19 to December 3.

NATA's technical services manager Rick Peri, who has met with hundreds of NATA members throughout the country while conducting over 20 workshops focusing on the proposed rule, expressed his concern about the ultimate cost to operators if the NPRM goes through as proposed.

"Unfortunately, the cost of the new regulations will be passed directly on to the customer without any real tangible safety benefits," said Peri. "What's most distressing about the proposal is that, contrary to the practices of modern quality management, the limited proposed rule will micro-manage the business of repair stations and squander their limited resources."

"The FAA has proposed a rough concept of a repair station organization without truly understanding the complexity of the repair station industry," added NATA vice president Andrew Cebula. "We look forward to working with the FAA to effectively hone this concept into a viable solution that will allow the industry to provide safe, efficient maintenance at a reasonable price."

AVIATION ART COMPETITIONS

Montana Aeronautics Division Aviation Awareness Art Contest - Students in grades 1-12 are encouraged to participate. The contest is divided into three categories: grades 1-4; grades 5-8; grades 9-12. The winner from each category will receive a plaque and certificate of achievement presented by the Governor, a career awareness tour of the Helena Airport and a roundtrip flight from the winner's hometown to Helena for the winner and his/her parent(s). A grand prize for entrants 15-17 years of age will include paid tuition to attend the 2000 EAA Air Academy in July in Oshkosh, WI. Deadline for entries is March 15, 2000. For further information write to the Division or call 444-2506.

International Aviation Art Contest - Year 2000 theme "Flight Into the Future". All children ages 6-17 are eligible to participate. Entries will be judged in 3 classes (determined by the age of the entrant on December 31, 1999). Category I - Ages 6-9, Category II - Ages 10-13, Category III, Ages 14-17. Entries in each category will be judged and state winners and runners-up selected. Winners will receive a certificate and recognition from their state. First place artwork will be forwarded to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national competition. A national winner and two runners-up will be selected from each age group. All national winners will receive certificates, ribbons and a framed photograph of their artwork. The first place national winners will also receive a professional work of art compliments of the American Society of Aviation Artists. The National Winners and two runners-up in each age group will be forwarded to FAI headquarters for international judging. Winners of the International Competition will receive certificates and medals of gold, silver, and bronze. Entries must be postmarked by February 14, 2000 and mailed to Montana Aeronautics Division, P.O. Box 5178, Helena, MT 59604-5178. For further information and contest rules contact Jeanne MacPherson at 444-2506.

1999 Montana Aeronautics Division Aviation Awareness Art Contest Winners

Category I - Grades 1-4

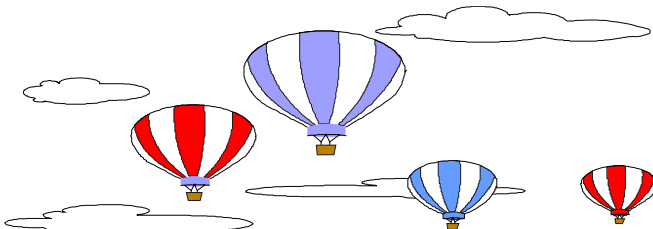
First Place - Anna Joy Wood - Grade 1 - Condon, MT
Second Place - Colt Ferguson - Grade 3 - Fort Peck, MT
Third Place - Phillip Negarrd - Grade 2 - Roy, MT

Category II - Grades 5-8

First Place - Crystal Dorne - Grade 6 - Swan Lake, MT
Second Place - Luke Ahmann - Grade 8 - Laurel, MT
Third Place - Sammi Dorne - Grade 5 - Swan Lake, MT

Category III - Grades 9-12

First Place - Katrina Wahl - Grade 11 - Cut Bank, MT (Katrina's Artwork was pictured in an earlier edition of Montana & The Sky)
Second Place - Brent Bouma - Grade 9 - Lincoln, MT
Third Place - Nicholas Greil - Grade 9 - Missoula, MT



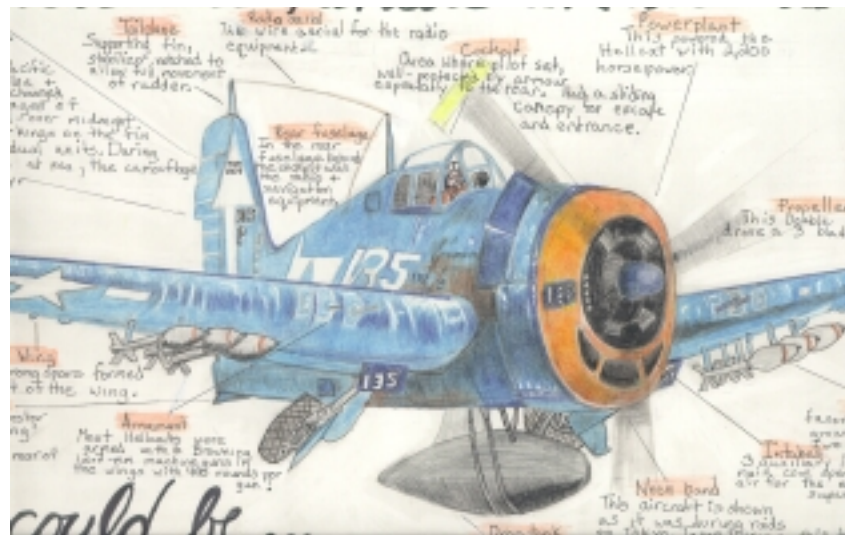
*Category I - 1st Place
Anna Joy Wood*



*Category III - 3rd Place
Nick Greil*



Category I - 3rd Place
Phillip Negarrrd



Category II - 1st Place
Crystal Dorne



Category II - 3rd Place
Sammi Dorne



Category III - 2nd Place
Brent Bouma



Category I - 2nd Place
Colt Ferguson



Category II - 2nd Place
Luke Ahmann

Scholarship Opportunities

ALOA Scholarships: A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship established in 1993 by an anonymous donor and joined by a second donor in 1997 will once again be awarded in 2000.

Th \$250 flight scholarships offered to Montanans are to be used to help defray costs of flight instruction and will be presented during the 2000 Montana Aviation Conference in Billings.

Awarding of the scholarships will be based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements.

Letters of application should be sent to Montana Aeronautics Division, P.O. Box 5178, Helena, MT 59604 or call 444-2516 for more information. Letters must be postmarked on or before February 4, 2000.

AOM Flight Training Scholarship:

The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM), includes representatives from the MAMA, MAAA, MATA, EAA, MFF, MT 99s, MPA, CAP, AMAA, MSPA, and the MAD and was formed... "to promote all facets of aviation in the State of Montana..."

AOM has established a scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate. A scholarship in the amount of \$500 and in its fifth year will be awarded to a Montana student pilot. Applications are being accepted for the scholarship that will be presented at the 2000 Montana Aviation Conference. All applications must be mailed to 1214 W. Crawford, Livingston, MT 59047 and must be postmarked on or before January 10, 2000

Applications and guidelines are available at FBOs and from CFIs throughout the state. Photocopies of an application form are acceptable.

Guidelines include: applicant must be a resident of Montana and all flight training must be received in Montana by a Montana registered CFI plus more.

If you are unable to find an application, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Tina Pomeroy, 1214 W. Crawford, Livingston, MT 59047 or call the Aeronautics Division at 444-2506.

Aviation Appreciation Scholarship:

The fifth annual Aviation Appreciation Scholarship will be presented at the Montana Aviation Conference in Billings.

The scholarships is offered by Jeff Morrison, retired former owner of Morrison

Flying Service, currently Exec Air in Helena.

Jeff has established the scholarship as a token of appreciation to the aviation community and increased the award this year to \$300. The scholarship is designed to help a young person seeking a career in aviation.

The scholarship recipient will be selected based upon a Montana resident explaining in a letter the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements.

Letters of application should be sent to the Montana Aeronautics Division, P.O. Box 5178, Helena, MT 59604 or call 444-2506 for more information. Letters must be postmarked on or before February 4, 2000.

Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship:

Kathy and Joe Kuberka, owners of Blue Goose Aviation, will be awarding the third annual \$250 scholarship to a first generation pilot to assist with flight training. This scholarship is designed to assist a person who has a love of aviation, yet had limited exposure to aviation, someone from a non-aviation background/family. The recipient may be a new student pilot or an individual working towards an additional rating.

The scholarship recipient, a Montana resident, will be selected based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, and any outstanding achievements.

Letters of application should be sent to the Montana Aeronautics Division, P.O. Box 5178, Helena, MT 59604 or call 444-2506 for more information. Letters must be postmarked on or before February 4, 2000.

Montana Pilots Association Junior

Award: The Montana Pilots Association is seeking applicants for its Junior Pilot of the Year Award. The recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. New pilots are frequently chosen for this award, but don't let the Junior fool you, this award can be given to any deserving age group. This person is most likely pursuing a professional aviation career.

Interested applicants must submit a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements.

Letters of application should be sent to the Montana Aeronautics Division, P.O. Box 5178, Helena, MT 59604 or call 444-2506 for more information. Letters must be postmarked on or before February 4, 2000.

99s Scholarship: The Montana Chapter of the Ninety Nines will award the eighth annual Esther Combs Vance/Vern Vine Memorial Flight Training Scholarship at the Montana Aviation Conference in Billings. The scholarship is to aid in the financing of a female student pilots flight training or any Montana female interested in learning how to fly.

Applicants must reside in Montana and receive flight training in Montana by a Montana registered CFI.

Interested applications must submit an essay of 500 words stating the reason for wanting to learn to fly, including where your interest began and plans for obtaining your private pilot certificate together with other application materials. Improperly submitted applications will be disqualified.

Applications must be mailed to 1214 W. Crawford, Livingston, MT 59047 and postmarked on or before February 10, 2000. If you need more information please write to Tina Pomeroy at the above address. Requests for applications should be sent to the above address, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope or call the Aeronautics Division at 444-2506.

Parrott Family Scholarship: The Parrott Family will award a fourth annual aviation scholarship in 2000 to a Montana high school student. The scholarship will pay \$1,000 and is to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program, and/or flight training expenses leading to a Private, Commercial, or Flight Instructor Certificate, and may include Instrument and Multi-engine ratings that are required by the RMC aviation curriculum. Eligible expenses include aircraft rental, flight and ground instruction, simulator training, and the purchase of aviation-related educational materials and related supplies.

The award will be made by a selection committee and will be based on overall character, academic qualifications, seriousness of purpose, past aviation-related activities, if any, or any other criteria it determines to be appropriate.

Applicants need to send a letter of application to the Montana Aeronautics Division, P.O. Box 5178, Helena, MT 59604. Letters must be postmarked on or before February 4, 2000.

The award will be made at the Montana Aviation Conference in Billings in early March.

POLSON AIRPORT DEDICATION

The city of Polson, the Lake County airport board and airport manager celebrated the grand opening of their newly re-constructed airport on August 28, 1999. A fly-in and open house was held. A pancake breakfast was provided in the morning and hamburgers and hotdogs in the afternoon. The Silvertip Skydivers performed throughout the event. Airport manager Tom Seabase reported that 75 to 80 airplanes flew in and received a complimentary breakfast. An unusual official ribbon cutting ceremony took place with an experimental airplane flying low over the new runway and cutting the ribbon. This was impressive! Although the actual construction project only got under way in early spring, the actual start to finish

took almost ten years in planning, getting federal and state grants approved, negotiations with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for land and many other details had to be worked out. The 1.7 million-dollar project includes a new 4200-foot runway with a parallel taxiway and spacious ramp with lots of tie-downs. This is one of the nicest overall airport re-construction projects we've seen in years. Congratulations to Polson and the Lake County Airport Board.



In attendance at the dedication are Carol Hayes, Noxon and Dick Schaus, Kalispell standing in front of Dick's 1944 Stinson 4-77 Gullwing



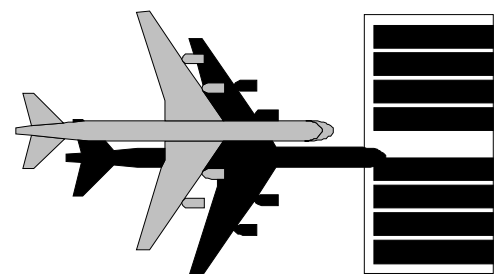
Attending the Polson Airport Dedication are from left to right, LeRoy Holversland, Airport Board Member, Clint White, Airport Board Chairman, Mike Lies, Mayor of Polson, Bob Ott, Airport Board Member, & Mike Ferguson



Pictured above is Master of Ceremonies Norm Kurtz of Kalispell



Pictured above is one of the Ruttan Long EZ-E aircraft that did the official ribbon cutting, the homebuilt aircraft are owned by Sam and Dick Kreidel of Polson



NATA SAYS FAA AGING AIRCRAFT PROPOSAL NEEDS WORK

In comments submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the National Air Transportation Association (NATA) called for an alternative means of meeting a proposal to require special inspections and procedures for Part 135 scheduled operators.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, "Aging Aircraft Safety," seeks to require engineering-based inspections, for all Part 23 certificated aircraft. Damage-tolerance-based inspection and procedures are developed by a manufacturer or operator based on an engineering evaluation of likely sites where damage could occur, considering expected stress levels, material characteristics, and projected crack growth rates. Few of the smaller aircraft in Part 135 operations have such a program.

As an alternative to the current proposal, NATA recommends that the FAA identify those Part 23 aircraft that have a damage-tolerance-based inspection developed and approved by the FAA and those aircraft where the manufacturer has developed supplemental inspection programs. Also, for any other aircraft, the Association recommends that the FAA develop a special inspection to enhance current inspection.

NATA's comments question the applicability of the legislative basis for the proposal. FAA claims that The Aging Aircraft Safety Act of 1991 requires these inspections on all aircraft including the light general aviation aircraft often used in Part 135 scheduled air carrier service. The Association contends that the Act focuses on large transport-category aircraft undergoing heavy maintenance checks.

Light general aviation aircraft do not undergo heavy maintenance checks and are therefore outside of the scope of the Aging Aircraft Safety Act of 1991," concluded NATA vice president Andrew Cebula.

ATTENTION MONTANA PILOTS:

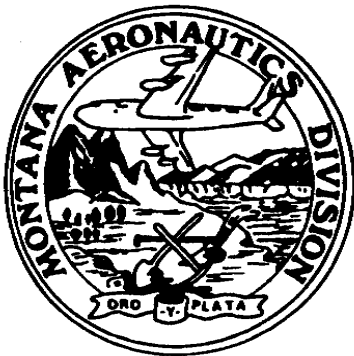
A navigation frequency has been changed in Helena. The Capitol NDB is now 335.

The Department of Transportation attempts to provide reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For further information call 406-444-2506 or TDD 406-444-7696.

Twenty nine hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,123. This includes \$120 for production, \$783 for postage and \$220 for printing.



NOVEMBER 1999



PO Box 5178
Helena, Montana 59604-5178

Bulk Rate
Postage Paid at
Helena, MT 59620
Permit No. 141